



BUTTERFLY & Other
INVERTEBRATES CLUB INC.
NEWSLETTER

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OFFICE BEARERS 1998

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AIMS OF ORGANISATION

- To establish a network of people growing butterfly host plants;
- To hold information meetings about invertebrates;
- To organise excursions around the theme of invertebrates e.g. butterflies, fireflies, ants, dragonflies, beetles, freshwater habitats, and others;
- To promote the conservation of the invertebrate habitat;
- To promote the keeping of invertebrates as alternative pets;
- To promote research into invertebrates;
- To encourage the construction of invertebrate friendly habitats in urban areas.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

If you want to submit an item for publication the following deadlines apply:

March issue – February 21st;

June issue – May 21st;

September issue – August 21st;

December issue – November 21st

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A quarterly meeting is now being scheduled in order to plan club activities and the newsletter. The next meeting is being held on Thursday November 6th 1998 at Daphne Bowden's place. Phone Daphne on 07 3396 6334 for directions.



EDITORIAL

Hello all. Welcome to our 10th newsletter.

We have great news – one of our first major projects is about to take off. We have received 3,000 copies of our poster, “Lifecycles of the Swallowtail Butterflies of coastal southern Queensland and northern New South Wales”. This will be a major community education tool for our Club, and will hopefully assist us greatly with our membership drive. The poster retails for \$12, but we have decided on a Club member price of \$8.00. Postage and handling is an extra \$5 to cover costs. We hope club members will consider purchasing multiple copies for Christmas and other presents – think of giving a lovely, informative poster to all your friends who would appreciate it. As you will see we are busy on many fronts, our programme for September to December is chocka full of activity. We have continued working on the Australian Fritillary Interim Recovery Plan, and that is approaching completion. Much of the initial recovery work and research has been documented, some other parts of the plan, its implementation and timetables are yet to be established. We plan to use it to attract some funding to enable a successful project to be developed.

As always all members are welcome to all meetings, including the planning and management meeting. This particular meeting is a great place for exchanging information and these meetings are anything but boring.

Thank you for supporting our club.

Helen Schwencke

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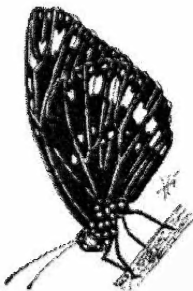
EXCURSION REPORTS

Report of Excursion to Indigiscapes Site and Coolnwynpin Conservation Reserve – Saturday 18th July 1998

The object of this excursion was to identify host-plants and butterflies in both these Redland Shire reserves.

The Indigiscapes site (formerly the Redlands Indigenous Plant Arboretum) off Redland Bay road at Alexandra Hills was established for public education purposes and preserves examples of some of the vegetation of the shire. Many butterfly host plants are already naturally present, and incorporated in the plans is the establishment of several areas displaying different vegetation types, suitable for a native home garden.

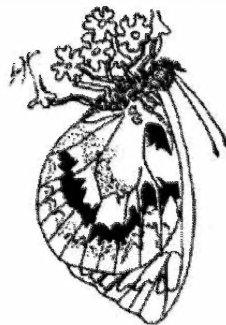
The dominant vegetation is composed of larger eucalypts (including Tallowwoods), Swamp Box (*Lophostemon suaveolens*) and Black She-Oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) with *Parsonsia straminea* (or “monkey-rope vine”) dominating the climbers. The understorey is composed of native grasses, mat-rushes and small shrubs including *Boronia rosmarinifolia* and *Hovea acutifolia*.



Common Crow

At this time, being mid-winter, very few butterflies were on the wing – Evening Browns, Common Crows and Common Jezebels being three expected exceptions. The green larva of a skipper, found in a shelter on Blady Grass (*Emperata cylindrica*), was collected for subsequent identification. It has since pupated and hopefully if it has not been parasitised, and emerges successfully, a further comment will be made next issue as to its identity.

Common Jezebel



Our second stop was to an area of remnant bushland saved by pressure from a group of residents who realised that several unique vegetation complexes especially *Banksia robur* dominated wallum and *Hakea-florulenta* forest were worth preserving. The author was involved in this process and had identified several unique skipper butterflies in these habitats, including the “Rare White



Spot Skipper" *Trapeyites lutea* (new name "Yellow Ochre") the uncommon "Pale Orange Dart" *Ocybadistes hypomeloma* (new name "White-margined Grass-dart") and the sporadic "Halyzia Skipper" *Mesodina halyzia* (new name "Eastern Iris-skipper"), whose larvae feed on *Patersonia* ("flag irises"), at least two species of which occur in the reserve.

On this occasion, although no adult butterflies were seen, several green larvae were found in leaf shelters of the native grass *Ischaemum australe*, growing alongside a natural soak. One specimen was retained which has so far reached the pupal stage. We are hopeful that it too will emerge and allow us to solve its identity and claim another confirmed host plant.

It was obvious that much damage had already been done to this reserve by the housing development process, and the ongoing nuisance by the public with trail bike riding, illegal rubbish dumping and general vandalism. The Redland Shire Council should be encouraged to preserve these sensitive areas as conservation reserves, and fence them off from general public usage whilst retaining more robust areas for general recreation.

Also it is to be hoped that some of the new residents will recognise the importance of this bushland, appreciate how privileged they are to be living in close proximity to it, and assist in its ongoing conservation by assisting the Redland Shire Council in setting up a local bushcare group.

John Moss

August 1998

SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY POSTER

Lifecycles of the Swallowtail Butterflies of coastal southern Queensland and northern New South Wales

is a new poster which illustrates the lifecycles and a native host plant for 10 species of swallowtail butterflies. It also provides information about alternative host plants for those species whose larvae have more than one host.

Many butterflies are becoming less common or even endangered because their hostplants are disappearing from the wild. People are generally not aware that each species of butterfly has its own plant or group of plants that provide food for the caterpillars. These eventually become the adult butterflies, which so many people appreciate. By showing the host plants and all stages of the lifecycle, our poster allows people to become involved in the secret life



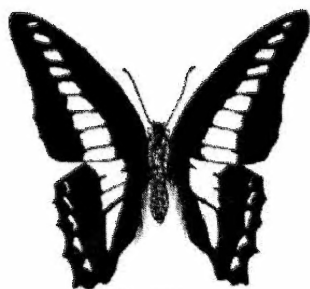
of butterflies. This can be done by growing the hostplants, and being able to recognise the caterpillars and chrysalises when they appear.

The poster has been in development for eighteen months. It represents the combined work of many people, especially Butterfly Club members, who have donated their expertise, assistance and support, but most particularly that of Helen Schwencke and Lois Hughes. Helen obtained the funding, developed the concept, photographed nine of the lifecycles, obtained use of Richmond Birdwing lifecycle slides thanks to Don Sands at CSIRO, did the lettering, and pulled the project together. With great attention to detail, Lois developed the detailed design for and illustrated the hostplants in a wonderful water-colour painting. It has been a great collaborative effort. The slides were then superimposed on the painting of the hostplants by a commercial graphics company and printed by a commercial printer, both with good reputations for their work.

Seven of the species illustrated were photographed from eggs laid on plants in Helen's own backyard, thus proving the point of the poster which is that growing the appropriate plants enhances your local environment. Two other species, the Four-bar Swordtail and the Macleay's Swallowtail were photographed from larvae donated by Club members, namely Bob Miller and the Mt Glorious Biological Centre.

In order to ensure that all the details were accurate, both the Queensland Herbarium and the Australian National Insect Collection were consulted about the current correct names for both the plants and butterflies. Dr. Michael Braby at the Australian National Insect Collection is currently in the process of revising the authoritative text on Australia's butterflies. In this new text some of the common names of butterflies will be changed. In order to remain current for longer, the poster has adopted the proposed new common names.

The lifecycles and hostplants illustrated include:



Blue Triangle

Macleay's Swallowtail (*Graphium macleayanum*),
host plant: Socketwood (*Daphnandra* sp. McPherson
Range)

Pale Triangle (*Graphium eurypylus*) (also known as
Pale-green Triangle), host plant: Canary Beech
(*Polyalthia nitidissima*)

Blue Triangle (*Graphium sarpedon*), host plant:
Three-veined Laurel (*Cryptocarya triplinervis*)



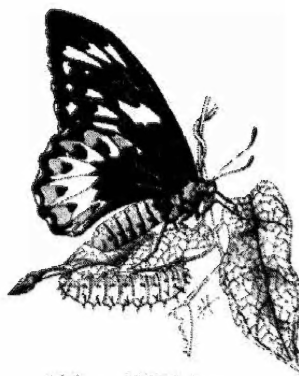
Dainty Swallowtail (*Papilio anactus*) (also known as Dingy Swallowtail), host plant: Native Fingerlime (*Microcitrus australasica*)

Orchard Swallowtail (*Papilio aegeus*), host plant illustrated: Lanoline Bush (*Zieria smithii*) also known as Sandfly Zieria

Clearwing Swallowtail (*Cressida cressida*) (also known as Big Greasy), host plant: Cressida Pipeflower (*Aristolochia* sp. aff.

Richmond Birdwing (*Ornithoptera richmondii*), host plant: Birdwing Vine (*Pararistolochia praevensosa*)

Four-barred Swordtail (*Protographium leosthenes*), host plant: Zig Zag Vine (*Melodorum leichhardtii* formerly *Rauwenhoffia leichhardtii*)



Richmond Birdwing

Fuscous Swallowtail (*Papilio fuscus*) (also known as Capaneus butterfly), host plant: Lime Berry (*Micromelum minutum*)

Chequered Swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*), host plant: Emu's Foot (*Cullen tenax* formerly *Psoralea tenax*)

The poster has a recommended retail price of \$12.00, with a Club members price of \$8.00, postage costs an extra \$5.00. All proceeds from sales will go to promoting butterfly gardening and conservation projects.

Posters & membership of the Butterfly & Other Invertebrates Club Inc. available by mail order from PO Box 2041, Runcorn, Qld 4113, and from bookshops covering environmental and natural history issues, and butterfly houses.

BRING BUTTERFLIES BACK TO YOUR BACKYARD

Please indulge us here. We thought we would include an article which Helen Schwencke wrote for a magazine back in 1991 about 15 months before she and Frank published their book "Butterfly Magic". It may be of interest to new members who are "just getting into butterflies".



A graceful Wanderer butterfly glides silently by, moving from one silkpod plant to the next and laying an egg here and there. Simon (then 18 months) would squeal with delight "lala, lala", his name for butterflies since he was twelve months old. Julian, then 4 years old, had grown up with these butterflies and revelled every time we found a caterpillar which was about to pupate. "Can I take this one to kindy Mum?"

Wanderer



The Wanderer caterpillars themselves are spectacular enough with their black, yellow and white 'tiger' stripes and their two feelers at their head and tail. The chrysalises are a lovely shade of green with a very fine row of gold specks on black towards the top as they hang by their tails, and a few gold specks around where their head used to be.

We have been actively encouraging these and many other species of butterflies in our garden simply by growing the host plant for the caterpillars. By growing some specific host plants you can be almost guaranteed to have some species of butterflies. Unlike some very common moths, many butterfly grubs only eat a specific or a small group of plants which are usually related to each other.

In the case of the Wanderer or Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*), silkpod or milk weed (*Asclepias curassavica*) is the host and it has beautiful little red and golden yellow flowers which grow in clusters. The Wanderer does feed on another white flowering species of milkweed but this species is classed as a noxious weed and shouldn't be planted. The only problem is that the plant produces a milky sap to which some people are allergic and which should not be touched if possible. Our garden has many plants and so far the children have been successfully taught not to touch these plants. The caterpillars use the poisons in this sap to make them distasteful to birds and children should also be taught not to eat them.

Wanderer caterpillars are easy to handle and can be picked off the plants. They curl up when this is done and quickly uncurl and tickle childrens' hands. They are great for teaching children to be careful and gentle. They feel very soft but are reasonably tough.

A very interesting feature of encouraging this butterfly is that you can easily follow its life cycle. You can also observe its population cycles over a period of a year. Cycles



start with only a few butterflies and caterpillars and as the population builds up to large numbers their food source starts to run out. At this time a parasitic fly becomes more common and starts laying eggs on the caterpillars. This prevents the pupa from emerging as a butterfly. The population then crashes but you soon get a new cycle starting again.

Another species of butterfly, the Lesser Wanderer, also lives on this plant. While nowhere near as common, it is very pretty, and its caterpillars are fairly similar. We took two of these pupating caterpillars to Kindy, one chrysalis was green the other pinkish, and just as lovely as Wanderer chrysalises.

Lesser Wanderer



Our garden has a wide variety of other host plants and we regularly get other species of butterflies. The Common Crow butterfly (*Euploea core*) is often resident. Its very spectacular chrysalis of shiny metallic colour is well known to children who often find it on the Oleander bush. Luckily there are native host plants for this large black butterfly with white spots around its edges. They include *Hoya australis*, *Parsonsia straminea* and *Carissa ovata*. We have a Parsonsia vine growing in our garden and in summer very regularly see these butterflies, hovering and doing courting dance flights. Parsonsia flowers, although very small, provide lots of nectar for butterflies and other insects.

(contd. next issue)

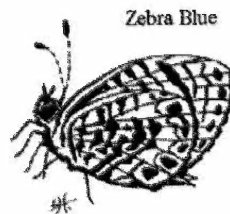
Helen Schwencke

CREATURE FEATURE

Zebra Blue (*Syntarucus plinius*)

Many butterflies are becoming scarcer because their native host plants are disappearing. However, a few butterflies have become adapted to popular exotics and are doing quite well. The Zebra Blue is one of these.

From a distance, this butterfly is a small greyish brown butterfly but close up the distinctive brown spots and bands that inspire its name are visible. The male is coloured pale purple on the inside wings while the female is pale blue.



They are quite attractive when viewed from close quarters.

Fortunately, it is easy to see the butterflies if you have *Plumbago* growing. There are two species, *Plumbago zeylanica* which is native and *Plumbago auriculata* from Africa. Both make suitable hosts. The African plant is more of a shrub while the Australian native plant is more of a Rambler. The seeds of both are sticky and get transported to new locations in this way.

The butterfly lays its eggs on the flower buds and the caterpillars feed on these. The caterpillars can be green or brownish pink and blend in with the colour of the seed heads. They are superbly camouflaged.

The Zebra blue is a frequent resident in our garden and often breeds there as well. You too could make it your own reliable backyard butterfly.

Frank Jordan

CREATURE NOTES

Creature Note #10

A Northern Encounter of the Beetle Kind

The following is an excerpt from my diary of the Queensland Naturalists' Club long excursion to Cape Tribulation, September, 1982.

"On reaching the creek (Emmagen Creek) we found the rest of our party of 11 having lunch. An interesting brownish coloured waterfall frog was found under a rock in the middle of the creek. The Normanby palms were in fruit. We crossed the creek to walk further northwards up the "drug track" as it is known locally. It eventually leads to Cedar Bay and the Bloomfield River. That is a day's walk from here.

Actinus macleayi



"On this track we found a most unusual insect which I shall endeavour to describe. It had a red, metallic coloured head, black feelers with white tips, which it constantly waved around. The thorax area was also red, and behind this was a pair of brilliant metallic purplish blue-green wing covers, quite short for the size of the body, and transparent wings.

"The body was black with a creamy yellow tip and a pair of brownish projections (styli) at the extremity.

"I reached for a bottle in which to collect it, and to our surprise it flew away. However I captured it in the net. As it settled down in the net



it rested its long wings along the top side of its body. It then folded its wings up and tucked them under the short blue/green wing covers (elytra). It then curled up its "tail", much like an earwig, and used the brown part of its body to literally ram the wings into place.

"It then expanded its wings again, "preened" them with the yellow end of its body and, as if not satisfied with the first effort, repeated the whole folding and ramming episode. The body has many stiff hairs on its upperside.

"On his return from Mt. Peter Botte, Dr Geoff Monteith identified this beetle from Emmagen Creek as *Actinus macleayi* in the family *Staphylinidae*. There is one other known, *Actinus imperialis*, which is found so far only in Cape York Peninsula. They frequent areas where flies congregate, as flies are a main item of their diet.

"The specimen was donated to Queensland Museum."

Lorna Johnston
August 1998

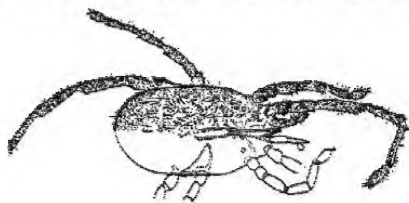
Creature Note #11

The Big, Red Birdwing-Egg Eater

What's big, red and eats the eggs of Richmond Birdwing butterflies?

Answer: an adult *Charletonia* mite. These mites were brought to my attention by Arthur Powter of Beerwah. Arthur has seen and photographed these striking mites eating Birdwing eggs. They are among the largest mites (ca. 10mm long) yet recorded from Australia. Whereas most mites are cryptic to the point of invisibility, the size and vibrant red colour makes *Charletonia* stand out, especially against the deep green of *Aristolochia* leaves. A dense covering of short plumrose hairs gives them a coat of red velvet. Indeed, some of their even more hirsute relatives are called red velvet mites.

Many Birdwing eggs on Arthur's property have been reduced to empty husks through *Charletonia*'s depredations. Judging by the high proportion of attacked eggs, these



Charletonia

mites could be reducing the numbers of Birdwings on Arthur's property. Arthur kindly collected some of the adult mites and Dr Heather Proctor from Griffith University identified them. Only patchy information is available on most mites and this group is no exception. Hopefully butterfly watchers will be able to supply more observations and



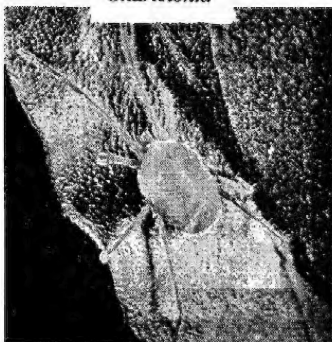
specimens!

Charletonia is a genus of mites in the Family Erythraeidae in the large group Parasitengona, which includes more than 7 000 species. Parasitengone mites share a standard lifecycle to which this *Charletonia* will most likely conform. Firstly the egg hatches into a tiny parasitic larva (typically ca. 0.5 mm long). *Charletonia* larvae parasitise insects by grabbing on with their piercing mouthparts and feeding on blood until they are engorged. The pinhead-sized red bodies of larvae of various species of *Charletonia* have been collected from moths and the hind wings of grasshoppers. Attachment to a large, mobile insect provides the mite with both food and dispersal to new areas.

After detachment from their host they moult to their 1st nymphal stage (protonymph) which is non-feeding and immobile. They then undergo another moult to a 2nd nymphal stage (deutonymph) which is active and predatory. After sufficient feeding in this incarnation they moult again to another inactive stage, the 3rd nymphal stage (tritonymph). After one further moult an active, predatory adult is produced. As predatory deutonymphs and adults, they eat smaller arthropods and of course insect eggs. They do not chew, rather they pump digestive enzymes into their prey with their piercing mouthparts and then suck up the liquefied contents.

Why are they bright red? Perhaps they are distasteful and this is warning colouration to help remind visually-orientating predators that they taste bad. For the tiny thin-skinned larvae perhaps this colour would also offer some protection against UV light.

Charletonia



Luckily Birdwing caviar is likely to be just one of many items on this mite's menu judging by the catholic tastes of its relatives. However, it would be wise to learn some more about this mite's biology because of its association with a Birdwing population. For instance what sorts of insects do the larvae of this *Charletonia* parasitise?

Matthew Shaw, Department of Entomology,
University of Queensland, St Lucia 4072 – m.shaw@ento.uq.edu.au

August 1998



LETTERS

Dear Editor,

7th August 1998

"I must do that one day." How often these words pass our lips, but rarely do we actually get round to it.

There has long been a need for a set of guidelines for establishing a butterfly-friendly habitat in your own backyard.

This need has been admirably filled by Graham McDonald in his book "Growing a Butterfly Garden in South-east Queensland". I wish to congratulate the author for a most useful and readable publication. I fully appreciate the endless hours and frustration that come with illustrating, writing and proofreading such a work, having walked that path more than once.

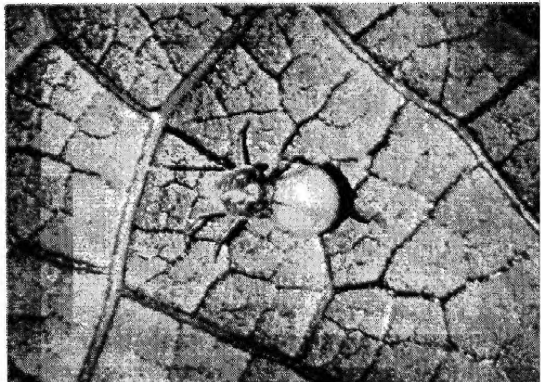
Following the advice contained in this book, a person with little or no knowledge of gardening could create a successful butterfly (and other invertebrates!) garden.

Thanks for a great book.

Lorna Johnston

The following is an extract from a letter from Arthur Powter (who was mentioned in Matthew Shaw's article above).

"A recent Taiwanese report on the species reveals that they thrive on eggs and seem to be egg specialists. The mites are not fussy about which eggs they eat – spiders, moths, etc. and definitely Richmond Birdwing eggs (see photo)



Chorletonia



The mites seem to be parasitic on insects – What I would like to know readers is if anyone happens to come across any little “blobs”, probably orange coloured, sucking onto legs or hindwings or maybe on the body also, please get in touch with me so I can pass this information onto the right people.”

Arthur Powter
(07) 5494 6519

TEACHING TIPS

The Lemon Migrant (*Catopsilia pomona*)

The advantage of using this butterfly for teaching purposes lies with its short egg, larval and pupal stages. From egg to pupa takes approximately one week, and the butterfly hatches out about a week later, so they are very quick and children are less likely to lose interest in keeping them. This makes them excellent to raise for children in kindergartens and in the early primary years.

Eggs are laid on the new growth of its hostplant. The native hostplant is *Cassia brewsteri*, though in urban areas this species makes good use of the introduced Golden Rain (*Cassia fistula*). Golden Rain trees are a common sight in suburban areas, so for the purposes of raising caterpillars in the classroom, it can usually be relatively easy to obtain your food source. Also, for this purpose, Golden Rain trees produce a lot of soft new growth which the butterfly prefers for laying eggs.

Picking the new soft fleshy leaves causes them to dry out quickly, so you will need to replenish your food supply on a daily basis. Only small amounts need to be picked in the first few days. At the peak of the season for these butterflies, the more new growth you pick the greater your chances of collecting even more new eggs, or newly hatched larvae.

The caterpillars of this species are green with a black and white stripe down each side. The chrysalis is green until it starts becoming ready to emerge, when it starts turning yellow and the black markings of the inside wings start to appear. During pupation the caterpillar strings itself up, spinning a sling about two-thirds the way along the body from the tail and attaches itself by its tail end. It is a spectacular sight to see this creature split out of its caterpillar skin and still stay suspended and attached.

Lemon Migrant butterflies come in at least four different colour forms. The butterflies vary in the amount of black on the inside wings, and vary from a pale yellow to a lovely shade of lemon to lime yellow. Some colour forms have pink markings. So raising a batch with children, which emerge at the same time, can provide a good observational exercise about differences.



In the early stages these larvae can be kept in containers such as oblong takeaway food containers. The lid needs to be lifted periodically, or small holes can be made in the lid. To reduce the possibility of the container becoming mouldy, old dried up leaves and the caterpillar frass needs to be removed probably on at least a daily basis. You will need to be careful that you aren't losing larvae with the clean outs. If a plant in a pot is available, this can be easier because it removes the need for cleaning out containers and collecting fresh food.

Once the larvae are mature it may be easier to shift them to a larger container and allow them to pupate on sticks. I often use bamboo skewers for the purpose. These can be placed in such a way that the emerging butterfly has enough room to pump up their wings. Occasionally caterpillars are parasitised, and instead of a butterfly emerging you may end up with wasps or tachnid flies.

Good luck and happy butterfly raising.

Helen Schwencke

August 1998

PLANT PROFILE

Native Mulberry (*Pipturus argenteus*)

The native mulberry is mostly a small tree, but can become a large tree when it receives a lot of light, water and fertilizer. In dry conditions it grows very slowly. Otherwise it is fast growing, densely foliated and recovers quickly from pruning. It is easy to propagate but its fine seeds must be kept moist to germinate. I have so many seedlings coming up in the potted plants underneath the trees that I haven't had to try cuttings though these should probably work okay.

It has separate male and female trees and is wind pollinated. The female tree bears masses of small white translucent berries which are sweet when fully ripe. Unfortunately for people, they don't last this long, because many birds eat them, silvereyes, mistletoe birds, lorikeets, fig birds and probably many others. This results in lots of other seedlings coming up under your tree. While this makes it a good pioneer species for revegetation projects it can also bring in many weed species like umbrella trees, pepperberries, etc, if these are growing nearby.

Several small moth caterpillars feed on the leaves and one feeds on the male flowers. A large hawk moth caterpillar also utilizes this tree. It is one of the hosts for the Speckled lineblue butterfly (*Catopyrops florinda*). There are almost always a few of these adults flying around our tree in a suburban backyard. Occasionally your tree will be visited by the White Nymph butterfly (*Mynes geoffroyi*), which lays its eggs in batches of about



40. Several batches of these communal caterpillars can remove a lot of foliage, but as the tree easily recovers, it is a small price to pay for a visit from this beautiful butterfly.

Best of all a large tree provides an almost endless supply of food for the Hedge grasshopper (*Valanga irregularis*). I quite like these large grasshoppers with their varied colours and patterns but they can be destructive to small or slow growing plants. I relocate all errant grasshoppers to the native mulberries. If they do manage to eat too much of the foliage they lose their camouflage and become easy picking for any large migrating birds.

The tree also provides shelter for many other invertebrates such as praying mantids, spiders, tree cockroaches, assassin bugs, etc. If you have enough room it certainly makes a wildlife friendly addition to the backyard.

Frank Jordan
August 1998

BOOK REVIEW

BOOK REVIEW: Growing a Butterfly Garden in South-East Qld by Graham J. McDonald. Self-published 1998.

There has long been a need for a book on butterflies which details the variety of, habitat occurrence and cultivation requirements of the host or larval food plants, as well as a list of nurseries where they can be purchased. This book fulfils that role and furthermore contains information on planning, preparation, planting and maintenance of the host plants. The strength of this publication derives from its having been written by a nurseryman with a knowledge of growing native plants.

GROWING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN
IN SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND



BY GRAHAM J. McDONALD

There is an excellent chapter on the role of comprehensive plantings of a host plant in the recovery program of a threatened butterfly species – the Richmond Birdwing (which is largely taken from a paper by Sands et al, as listed in the reference section), and a chapter which lists host and nectar



plants for specific natural plant communities, which includes some excellent line drawings of a few host plants.

Unfortunately, probably due to inadequate proof reading and reliance on outdated references, very many mistakes have appeared, including incorrect spelling of taxa, outdated scientific/botanical names, misleading common names, incorrect and unconfirmed hostplants, important omissions of common butterflies, inclusion of non-local region species of butterflies, lack of references in the text and failure to explain the origin of what appear to be new host plant records (in particular whether butterflies went through to maturity on a newly listed plant or whether the record was only relating to the oviposition behaviour).

Chapter 8 lists the butterflies alphabetically according to their common names, some of which are given incorrectly (eg. "Large Greasy" should be "Big Greasy"), and many more are soon to be outdated with an upcoming CSIRO revision of the whole of the Australian butterfly fauna which will (inter alia) include new common names (eg. "Big Greasy" will become "Clear-winged Swallowtail"). No other publication lists them this way, and a compromise, such as grouping them alphabetically within genera, would have made it easier to locate them within the text and would avoid the annoying problem of having to turn over several pages to compare host plants of closely related species. Although there is an index of butterfly common names (with cross-referencing) with a list of scientific names.

To aid identification the author has included some quite accurate line drawings of many of the butterflies especially the larger species. Unfortunately when it comes to the smaller species (the blues/coppers etc and the skippers/darters etc.) which are in the majority by far, there are only a few representative drawings, with the omission of some quite common species eg. Zebra Blue, Pea Blue, Eliena and Common White Spot Skippers etc. Strangely, some relatively common SEQ species eg. Maheta and Prazedes Skippers and the Cuprea Ant-blue, did not get a mention, although some quite rare species or non-SEQ species are included eg. Large and Small Ant-blue, Miskin's Swift and Black and White Flat.

As stated earlier there appear to be some totally new host plant records for which I can find no previous reference. These should have been noted as new host plant records, especially those which would need further confirmation such as unusual or unexpected hostplants eg. *Diploglottis cunninghamii* for *Graphium eurypylus* and *Mischocarpus pyrifomis* for *Papilio aegaeus* both of which are in the Sapindaceae family, none of which host plants are listed previously for the Swallowtail family.



Overall the concept of the book's practical approach is very good, but the many errors will need to be corrected. At this time it would not be fair to recommend the book to the general public without the printing of an errata list, possibly as an enclosure of a large sheet of stick-on transfers.

If a second edition is to be considered, then hopefully, the author would enlist the help of botanical and entomological authorities prior to publication (in the draft state), as it would indeed be a shame if the good work and good intentions were not eventually to see fruition in a better format.

John T. St.L. Moss
August 1998

WORLD WIDE WEB SITES TO WATCH

This issue's web site to visit is one from the Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information Network detailing butterflies recorded by Richard Zietek at Smith's Scrub.

<http://www.infinitearts.com.au/brain/butterflies.html>

YOU ASKED

Please write in if you have a question you would like answered

OTHER GROUP'S ACTIVITIES

Wild Creatures!

What wild things share our suburbs?

Local photographer and wildlife enthusiast Bob Ashdown will present an entertaining talk and slide show on the scenery and wildlife of the Lota and Tingalpa Creek catchments.

All welcome!
Saturday 12th September 7pm



Entry by Gold Coin Donation. Proceeds to aid the local community's campaign against the proposed residential development at Tilley Road, Gumdale.

All enquiries to Nicola Udy 3245 3543

LIBRARY BOOKS FOR LOAN

The following books are currently available for loan at meetings:-

Australia's Butterflies, by Peter Wilson

Butterfly Magic, by Helen Schwencke and Frank Jordan

Australian Cicadas, by Max Moulds

Butterflies of Australia, by Common and Waterhouse, 1981

Butterfly Watching, by Paul Whalley

ADS AND EXCHANGES

Sometimes you may have an oversupply of legally obtained caterpillars of non restricted species and your food supply will not hold out. If this happens, contact Rob MacSloy - 07 3824 4348 - who operates the Register of Host Plants. He can put you in touch with prospective "foster parents". Have YOU advised Rob of the host plants you have available?

BUTTERFLY AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES CLUB PROGRAMME

Society for Growing Australian Plants Annual Spring Flower Show

When: Sat. 9am – 5pm & Sun. 10.30am – 4pm, 12th & 13th September

Where: Mt. Gravatt Showground, Logan Rd., Mt Gravatt

What: The Club will be conducting a display and promoting the Butterfly poster. These sales are a good place to acquire obscure native and butterfly host plants. Please consider helping with this stall.

Contact: Helen 3844 6677, fax 3844 4333, email hschwenc@ucaqld.com.au

Satin Blue Excursion to Stradbroke Island

When: Sat 19th and/or Sun 20th September, 1998, some members are going on Fri 18th. Book your own ferry passage.

Where: Accommodation will be at Minjerribah Holiday Camp, 3-5 Cunningham St. Dunwich and with all meals will cost in the vicinity of \$35.00 per day for adults and less for children. The



conditions have been described as comfortable. Sites where the butterfly can be seen are within 30min drive from the accommodation.

- What:** Come see the elusive Satin Blue - it's on the wing for \pm 2 weeks per year!
- Bring:** Your own linen, pillows and pillowcases, blankets and food for lunches
- R.S.V.P.** John Moss is doing a group booking, please ring him on 3245 2997 if you are attending whether for one day or several. Late bookings will be available for accommodation only.

Brisbane River Festival

- When:** Sat 3rd & Sun 4th October, 10am to 6pm
- Where:** Brisbane City Botanic Gardens
- What:** The Club will be conducting a display and presentation on butterflies in the "Discovery Walk" marquee, and promoting the poster. Please consider assisting with the roster.
- Contact:** Helen 3844 6677, fax 3844 4333, email hschwenc@ucaqld.com.au

Lifecycles of the Swallowtail Butterflies Poster Launch

- When:** late October, date to be advised
- Where:** Mt. Cootha Botanic Gardens
- What:** launch of our recently published poster, by the Minister for Environment, Hon. Rod Welford, followed by a short host plant presentation and a guided walk of butterfly host plants in the Mt. Cootha Botanic Gardens.
- Contact:** Helen 3844 6677, fax 3844 4333, email hschwenc@ucaqld.com.au

Slaters, a presentation by Dr. Glen Ingram, Senior Environmental Scientist, Hyder Environmental

- When:** Thurs, 22nd October, 7.30 – 9.30 pm
- Where:** Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, Rode Road, McDowall
- RSVP:** by Wed 21st October, call Helen 3844 6677, fax 3844 4333, email hschwenc@ucaqld.com.au It is important to RSVP for this program as circumstances concerning the speaker may make him unavailable at short notice.

Butterfly Club Planning and Management Meeting

- When:** Thurs, 5th Nov, 7.30pm – 9.30pm
- Where:** Daphne Bowden's, at Manly - Contact Daphne for address and details, 07 3396 6334



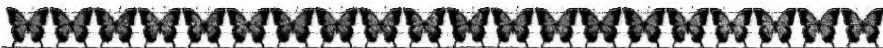
Toona Rainforest Gardens Excursion

When: Sat 21st Nov, 2pm – 4pm
Where: Graham & Beth McDonald's, at 12 Pharlap Ave Mudgeeraba, ph 07 5530 5299
What: Graham McDonald of Toona Rainforest Gardens specialises in native rainforest plants, and butterfly host plants

Fireflies Excursion (and End of Year function)

When: Sat 12th December, 6.00pm for a BYO BBQ of picnic dinner
Where: Mt Nebo, exact location to be advised in next newsletter
What: Come see the enchanting sight of fireflies on the wing.
Contact: Helen 3844 6677, fax 3844 4333, email hschwenc@ucaqld.com.au

If there is a particular speaker you wish to hear or a particular event you wish to attend, it would be wise to phone the contact for that event in case, for some unforeseen circumstance, the event has had to be postponed or cancelled.



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- Those who sent in letters and articles
- Lois Hughes who provided illustrations
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- Lois Hughes who developed the cover design
- Frank Jordan for inspiration

We would like to thank all these people for their contribution

ARE YOU A MEMBER

Please check your mailing label for the date your membership is due for renewal. If your membership is due, please renew as soon as possible.

Butterfly and Other Invertebrates Club Inc.

c/- PO Box 2041

Runcorn Q 4113

**Next Meeting: Satin Blue Excursion to Stradbroke Island Sat/Sun. 19/20th
September, 1998**



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